CYNDI LAUPER (Composer and Lyricist)

Date of Birth: June 22, 1953
Place of Birth: Queens, NY, USA

Cyndi Lauper is a Grammy, Emmy and Tony Award-winning artist, who, after 30 sterling years and global record sales in excess of 50 million albums, has proven that she has the heart and soul to keep her legion of fans compelled by her every creative move.

With her first album, *She's So Unusual*, Lauper won a Grammy Award for Best New Artist and became the first female in history to have four top-five singles from a debut album on the Billboard 100 chart ("Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," "Time After Time", "She Bop," and "All Through the Night"). In the summer of 2013, Cyndi embarked on the She's So Unusual Tour to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the record. Since then, Lauper has released ten additional studio albums, with her most recent, the Grammy nominated *Memphis Blues*, ruling the Billboard Blues Chart for 14 consecutive weeks to become the best-selling blues album of 2010. Her upcoming 11th studio album, *Detour*, recorded late last year in Nashville, will showcase her signature takes on classic country songs from the 1950's and 60's. The album will also feature appearances by some of country music's most-celebrated artists.

Overall, during her storied music career, Lauper has been nominated for 15 Grammy Awards, two American Music Awards, seven American Video Awards and 18 MTV Awards. On June 18th, 2015 Lauper was inducted into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame.

In 2013, Lauper became the first female composer to win a Tony Award for her score of the year's Best Musical, *Kinky Boots*, which she penned alongside Harvey Fierstein. The show also won the 2014 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theatre Album. *Kinky Boots* is now in its fourth smash year on Broadway, and there are also hit productions playing in Toronto, on London's West End, and across America, with an Australia production opening in October 2016.

She recently captured her journey through music and life in her New York Times best-selling autobiography, Cyndi Lauper: A Memoir. Written with journalist Jancee Dunn and published by Atria Books, the memoir details Cyndi's tumultuous years growing up in Queens, the ups and downs of a career that has spanned over three decades, and her conflicted feelings on fame and her advocacy of equality for all. These stories led to the creation of the True Colors Fund, which works to end homelessness among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, creating a world in which young people can be their true selves.

Throughout her career, Lauper has been a champion for equality for all through various charities, campaigns, and events around the world. In particular, over the past eight years, Cyndi has focused her activism through the True Colors Fund, which has been building a national movement to ensure that no young person is homeless again due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Whether it be testifying in the U.S. Senate and speaking at The White House about LGBT youth homelessness to using the power of social media to advocate for women's rights, Cyndi is committed to using her voice to ensure that equality prevails in our society and that everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

As an actress, Lauper made her Broadway debut in *The Threepenny Opera* alongside Alan Cumming in 2006. She has appeared in numerous television shows, including "Mad About You" (Emmy Award) and "Bones" and films including *The Opportunist* with Christopher Walken, *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle*, *Life With Mikey*, *Off and Running* and *Vibes*. Lauper also continues her philanthropic work through her foundation, the True Colors Fund.

For her television adventure, she joined with one of TV's most influential producers, Mark Burnett, whom she met after her 2010 turn on Celebrity Apprentice. Her docu-series, titled Cyndi Lauper: Still So Unusual, aired on WE tv. The half-hour show gave viewers a backstage pass through her personal and professional life as she juggles her roles as rock star, mother, wife, Broadway composer, and

philanthropist.

For more information about Cyndi, please visit her website at www.cyndilauper.com.

Discography

- 1983 She's So Unusual
- 1986 True Colors
- 1989 A Night to Remember
- 1993 Hat Full of Stars
- 1996 Sisters of Avalon
- 1998 Merry Christmas... Have a Nice Life
- 2003 At Last
- 2004 Shine
- 2008 Bring Ya to the Brink
- 2010 Memphis Blues

Awards

1984
Nominated for **NINE** MTV Video Music Awards
Time After Time
Girls Just Wanna Have Fun
Nominated for a Primetime Emmy

1985
Won a Grammy – Best New Artist
Nominated for a Grammy – Song of the Year (Time After Time)
Nominated for a Grammy - Best Female Pop Vocal Performance (Girls Just Wanna Have Fun)
Nominated for a Grammy - Record of the Year (Girls Just Wanna Have Fun)
Nominated for a Grammy - Album of the Year (*She's So Unusual*)
Nominated for **FIVE** MTV Video Music Awards
Won a Primetime Emmy - Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series
Mad About You (1992) For playing "Marianne Lugasso" in the episode "Money Changes Everything"

1986
Nominated for a Grammy - Best Female Rock Vocal Performance ("What a Thrill")

1987
Nominated for a Grammy - Best Female Rock Vocal Performance ("911")
Nominated for a Grammy - Best Female Rock Vocal Performance ("True Colors")
Nominated for an MTV Video Music Award - Best Female Video
Nominated for an MTV VM - Best Cinematography

1988
Nominated for a Grammy - Best Performance Music Video

1990
Nominated for a Grammy - Best Female Rock Vocal Performance

1999
Nominated for a Grammy - Best Dance Recording ("Disco Inferno")

2013
2013 *Won a* Tony Award - Best Original Score for *Kinky Boots*

2014
2014 *Won a* Grammy - Best Musical Theater Album for *Kinky Boots*

Acknowledgements

1999 VH1 100 Greatest Women of Rock & Roll – No. 58

"Time After Time"
2000 Rolling Stone 100 Greatest Pop Songs - No. 66
2000 MTV 100 Greatest Pop Songs - No. 66
2002 VH1 100 Best Songs of the Past 25 Years - No. 22
2006 VH1 100 Greatest Songs of the 80's - No. 19

"Girls Just Want to Have Fun"
1993 Rolling Stone The 100 Top Music Videos - No. 22
1999 MTV 100 Greatest Videos Ever Made - No. 39
2001 VH1 100 Greatest Videos - No. 45
2006 VH1 100 Greatest Songs of the 80's – No. 23

Other
1999 *She's So Unusual* - Rolling Stone 100 Best Albums of the '80s - No. 75
2002 *She's So Unusual* - Rolling Stone 50 Essential "Women in Rock" Albums - No. 41
2003 *She's So Unusual* - Rolling Stone The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time - No. 494
2005 "Unchained Melody" – *Nominated* for a Grammy - Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocalist(s)
2009 *Bring Ya to the Brink* - *Nominated* for a Grammy - Best Electronic/Dance Album
2011 *Memphis Blues* - *Nominated* for a Grammy - Best Traditional Blues Album

